

" Of two evils, choose neither .." - Spurgeon

# AURICLE



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"Well, you're no O.J. Simpson, but if anybody asked, I'd definitely say you were healthy enough to sit in a witness box."

## ..eclectics...

- by Ron Cyr

### ...Of Cabbages and Quacks...

Parents of a deformed child have launched a \$143,000 suit against a Quebec chiropractor who they say prescribed cabbage-leaf poultices, electric shocks and injections to cure their son, suffering from hydrocephalus. The parents allege that the chiropractor led them to believe that wrapping their son's head in boiled cabbage leaves at night would drain off the fluid. The treatment did irreparable harm to the boy's condition, the suit contends. (1)

### " Self-Destructive Behaviour "

"During the past fifteen years in many countries the increasing incidence of self-injury (self-destructive behaviour with a non-fatal outcome) has become a major medical, social, and economic problem. A study carried out in London, Ontario between June 1969 and May 1971 reported 1902 episodes of self-injury: 730 per 100,000 population per year.

In 75% of cases, overdose of a drug (most commonly a tranquiliser or a sedative) was the method used, while 18% involved a cutting injury.

Thirty-five percent of the patients had previously consulted a physician for emotional problems, and eighty-six percent had seen a physician within six months of inflicting self-injury.

..Physicians should be on the alert to identify the potential self-injury patient... Enquiries should be made of feelings of depression, unhappiness, and disturbed inter-personal relationships. The amount of medication prescribed on any one occasion should be strictly limited and busy G.P.'s should be ready to refer such individuals for psychiatric help when they themselves cannot spare the time required. (2)



### Something to Kick About "

In a recent letter to the New England Journal of Medicine, Russell and Lewis

reported the case of a young male Karate enthusiast who presented with complaints of passing dark urine immediately after several hours of intense Karate practice during which he was kicking a wall...

A urine sample - which was brown - was found to contain appreciable amounts of myoglobin.

The differential diagnosis of myoglobinuria must now include 'Karate-kicking', along with conga drumming, ice-skating and football playing...(3)

"Poppycock!"

"The Turkish opium ban as put into effect by our government, the resulting shortages

of indispensable drugs, and the adverse effects on the practice of medicine are all the results of simplistic solutions to extremely complex problems.

...Even if we could, by some stretch of the imagination, succeed in removing opium and heroin from the licit and illicit world markets, the only result would be the development of substitute addictions to methadone, mepеридine and any other narcotic analgesic that the underworld could divert, steal or synthesise in a relatively unsophisticated chemical laboratory. The forced replacement of morphine and codeine with synthetic analgesics and anti-tussives would only serve to remove important and familiar agents from legitimate use, to the detriment of medical practice, without in any way affecting the problem of addiction." (4)

(1) O.M.A. Review , December 1975 , p. 675

(2) A.W.Andison. C.M.A. Journal 113 (1975) pp 830-831

(3) S.M.Russell, A. Lewis. N.E.J.M. 293 (1975) p 941

(4) Joseph Cochin, N.E.J.M. 293 (1975) p 990

### STUDENTSHIPS IN PATHOLOGY

The Department of Pathology at the University of Manitoba is interested in developing a one-year programme in Pathology for students of medicine. This programme would normally be undertaken following the second undergraduate year of Medical School and would give students an opportunity to further their studies with an early and concentrated exposure to Pathology - the field bridging the gap between basic and clinical sciences.

This programme would be adapted to the requirements and interests of individuals. A typical programme couples experience in anatomic pathology with a related research project. Similar programmes are also possible in other branches of Laboratory Medicine. Appropriate remuneration would be available.

The purpose of this bulletin is to obtain some idea of the number of medical students in Canada who would be interested in participating in such a programme. Further inquiries may be addressed to:

Dr. F. W. Orr , Chairman ,  
Pathology Residency Training Committee,  
University of Manitoba, 770 Bannatyne Avenue,  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba R3E 0W3

"Rather to my surprise, the spirit of the Toronto General Hospital appears to be very high. The reason I am surprised is that they do not appear to be very popular in the minds of the upcoming class. I had, therefore, expected to find despondency. I was told by several clerks that there was so much going on at T.G.H. that they could avail themselves of, that they had more than sufficient opportunity to learn medicine. This concept of self-education is quite revolutionary at the University of Toronto and is only to be applauded! "

(excerpt from a letter to Dr. Llewellyn-Thomas on December 17th, 1975,  
from Dr. A. Hudson - Period III Co-ordinator at St. Michael's Hospital)

